# 3rd Sunday of Advent December 14, 2025 10:30 AM Holy Communion



# MOUNT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

2164 MOUNT ZION ROAD + YORK, PENNSYLVANIA 17406

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(717) 757-7626

\*congregation stands
Greeting and Announcements

#### **Prelude**

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Hayden Klinedinst, organ

# \*Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

- P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.
- C: Amen.
- P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

The assembly kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection.

- P: Long-expected God,
- C: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.
- P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.

  + You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.
- C: Amen.

# \*Opening Hymn

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

**ELW 242** 

- \*Apostolic Greeting
- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: And also with you.

# **Lighting of the Advent Candle:**

# Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (Verse 1, 2 &3)

**ELW 240** 

<u>Third Sunday of Advent</u> (Kathie Boop and Beth Hollingworth)

A: We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

#### The Lessons

First Lesson: *Isaiah 35:1-10* L: A reading from Isaiah

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting.
 The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
 They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

- Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.
   Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!
   Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."
- <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
  <sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
  For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert;
  <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water;
  the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.

- <sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
- L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: *Psalm146:5-10* 

L: We will now read the psalm responsively:

- <sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- <sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;
- <sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.
- <sup>8</sup> The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

# the LORD loves the righteous.

- <sup>9</sup> The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Second Lesson: James 5:7-10

L: A reading from James:

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example

of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

\*GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

C: Alleluia. Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup> "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

#### **Sermon**

\*Hymn of the Day Christ Be Our Light

**ELW 715** 

\*The Apostle's Creed

A: Let us affirm our faith together with the Apostles' Creed.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and was born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

# \*Prayers of the Church

A: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence

A: God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, s	speak your blessing. We pray especially
for	,the shut-in members of our
congregation and those we name in our hearts.	

A brief silence

A: In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.** 

A: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C: Amen.

## \*Peace

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

A: Let us share God's peace.

The assembly is invited to spread God's peace in whatever way is most comfortable to them: peace sign, fist bump, elbow bump, air kiss, prayer hands with a bow, heart hands, etc.

# **Offering**

At this time we give thanks for the members of Mount Zion who are able to give financially to further our mission of spreading the Gospel in accordance with God's plan by ministering to the spiritual and human needs of all people through our gifts, talents, and our love in Jesus Christ.

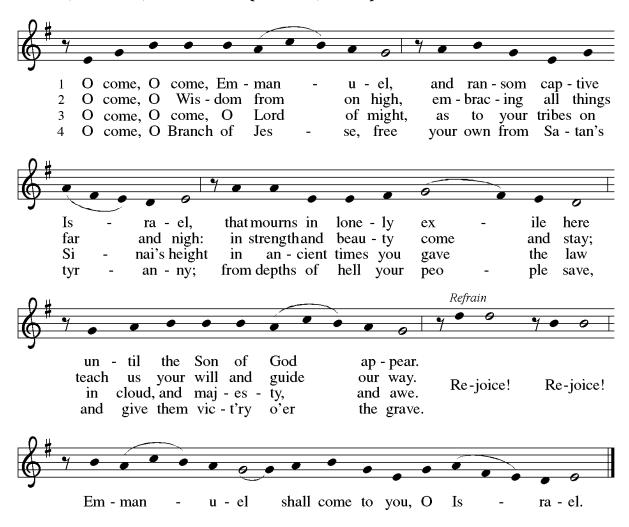
Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly

Hayden Klinedinst, organ

#### \*Offertory Hymn

# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verse 1, 2 & 3)

#### **ELW 257**



# \*Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray... Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

#### C: Amen.

# \*The Great Thanksgiving

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- P: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them to the Lord.
- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.



- P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
- C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

## \*Eucharistic Prayer

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

- C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P: With this bread and cup
  we remember your Word dwelling among us,
  full of grace and truth.
  We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
  We look with hope for his coming.

# C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

# C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.** 

# \*The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

# \*Invitation to Communion

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

C: Thanks be to God.

# **Communion Meal**

We ask that anyone unable to approach the altar for communion please stay seated and notify the usher. The pastor and assistants will gladly come down to give communion to those who remain seated.

# Hymns during distribution:

He Comes to Us as One Unknown
Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

**ELW 737** 

**ELW 246** 

# \*Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray....God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

#### \*Benediction

P: May God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

C: Amen.

#### \*Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God!

# **Postlude**

Hark! The Glad Tidings!

Hayden Klinedinst, organ

**ABOUT TODAY'S THEME:** A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

**First Lesson:** The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

**Second Lesson:** In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

**Gospel Lesson:** In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

#### **Announcements**

**Welcome Visitor:** We thank you for visiting our church family. Please fill out a visitor card and sign our guest register found in the narthex.

**Large Print Worship Books** are available for those in need of larger print. Ask an usher if you would like one.

**We ask that anyone unable to approach** the altar during communion stay seated and notify the usher. The Pastor will gladly come down and give communion.

# THIS WEEK AT MOUNT ZION Week of December 14

Wednesday	12:30 PM	Bible Study
	6:00PM	Bible Study
Sunday	10:30 AM	Worship

# **Assisting Today in Worship**

Celebrant Rev. Deborah Shearer-Mahady

Organist Hayden Klinedinst

Lay Assistant Ellen Gibb
Communion Assistant Erin McDaniel
Lector Kathy Gable
Ushers Pat Hauer

Kollene Stauffer

Cashier Cheyanna Snyder Camera Cheyanna Snyder

# Mt. Zion Prayer List

Continue to pray for: Raven Ambrose, Bonita Anderson, Fran Anderson, Jerry Arnold, Shannon Arnold, Janet Shermyer Berkheimer, Lauren Beyer, Jacklyn Billet, James Billet, Mary Bishop, Mary Sue Bottstein, Joan Brenner, Joyce Brown, Ralph Brown, Robert Brown, the family of Robert Brown, Sarah Brown, Scott Brown, Ted Brown, Eric Bruner, Joseph Bruggerman, Julie Christy, Jess Combs, Phyllis Comery, Ian Conover, Billee Couch, Tim Couch, Lizzy Cowit, Steven Cowit, Tana Cox, Jason Crowley, Madeline Crowley, Lynn Deitzer, Tom Demler, Dee DeVeny, Annie Diehl, Gerri Deller, Kendall Dellinger, Zoe Doll, Andrew Doughty, Joe Ellis, Carol Emswiler, Layla Esteves, Pastor Courtney Erzkus, Chris Farmer, Pam Fay, Dudley Fink, Jason Frederick, Martha Frederick, Scott Frederick, Jacinda Frigm, Gloriann Green, Rev. Donald Green, Lonnie Ginter, Ronnie Ginter Ir., Gina Goodrich, Linda Grone, Jeannie Grove, Bob Gundlach, Mary & Tom Haberkorn, Jay Hammel, Dolly Harbolt, Donna Haves, Mike Healey, Alicia Hedrick, George Heller, Sharon Harvey, Brian Hinderer, Ruth Hoak, Linda Hodgson, Bob Hoffheins, Heather Hoffman, Dennis Hummel, Carol Johnson, Colleen Jones, Gladysmae Keeney, Jolene Klinger, Gene Krisukas, Mike Kowslik, Sarah Kuhn, Kelly Lehr, Lou Ann Leibensperger, Jean Leiphart, Kacie Longenberger, Heather Luchka, Dick Lynn, Bob Lyon, Fran Marple, Brad March, Sharon March, Amy Martzall, Cindy McDaniel, Rose McGowan, Kenneth & Sue Miller, Sally Miller, Jennifer Mitterholtzer, Jodi Mitterholtzer, Matthew Mitterholtzer, Otto Mitterholtzer, Rebecca Mitterholtzer, E.T. Moore, Angy-Mike Mossengo, David Murphy, Sandy Murphy, Ellen Myers, Karen Naugle, Tom Needhum, Sandy Nelson, Nancy & Lou Orndorff, Deb Overly, Sue Pries, Ben Renner, Alison Reppert, Carrie Roman, Jeff Sargen, Kaeley Saylor, Craig Schaszberger, Joan Schildt, William Schmeed, Maxine & Larry Shaffer, Tom Shaffer, Anthony Shaw, Zach Shiffer, Rick Shreve, Heather Smith, Condoda Smith-Boyle, Heidi Snyder, Thomas Somerville, Candy Stambaugh, Judy Stambaugh, Herb Stauffer, Bud Stevens, Carol Stickles, Lisa Striebig, Jennifer Torok, Debra Tracey, Micheal Tudino, Bernnie Truax, Jace Valenti, Jane Van Zant, David Walker, Andrew Walter, Ruth Ward, Bob Warren, Bonnie Warren, Bill Weaver, Bruce Weaver, Dodie Weaver, Victor White, Bob Wolf, Larry Wood, Donald Zepp, Rich Zerbe, Ben Zelinski, and the shut-in members of our parish.

The Prayer List is reviewed each month. Though names may remain on the prayer list for an unlimited time, periodic updates are appreciated. Contact KATHIE BOOP (717-855-6763) for any additions or subtractions from the prayer list. If a name has been mistakenly deleted, please notify KATHIE BOOP.

#### Financial Snapshot for December 09, 2025

#### **FULTON BANK**

Administration \$ -9.45 After all outstanding paid Pastor's Discretionary \$ 207.51 Rental \$ 709.70 Memorial @ .02% \$ 1,470.14 Special Needs \$ 1,304.56

Commercial Loan @ Fulton Bank \$20,000 at 8.77% payments begin December 1st \$414.36

#### **CITIZENS BANK**

 Business Checking @ .05%
 \$ 3,100.00

 Business Money Market @.02%
 \$ 5,078.00

 6 mo CD @4%
 \$ 91,197.85

Total Contributions - Envelope offering: December 7th \$ 2612 Weekly Budget \$ 3,430

For November we ended \$ 78 over budget, but for year to date we are short for the year \$ 4,602 We have time to give - Advent, Christmas, and year-end giving are occurring in December. Please prayerfully consider how you may be able to help. Thank you very much.

Contributions to Sound System for November \$502 Monthly Budget \$867 Year to date \$4,195 We only need \$572 to make our 2025 goal of \$5,200. Our goal in 2026 is \$10,400 or \$5.00 per week. PLEASE USE GREEN ENVELOPE FOR YOUR \$5 PER WEEK OFFERING FOR THE SOUND SYSTEM

Bills paid but not yet cleared bank	\$ 12,034.89
Bills for 12/15 to 12/19	\$ 4,264.79
Bills for 12/20 to 12/26	\$ 8,614.27
Estimated monthly bills as of December 1, 2025	\$ 32,770.28

**Food Bank:** November: Deposits \$1,336 Expenses \$875 Balance \$1,115.08

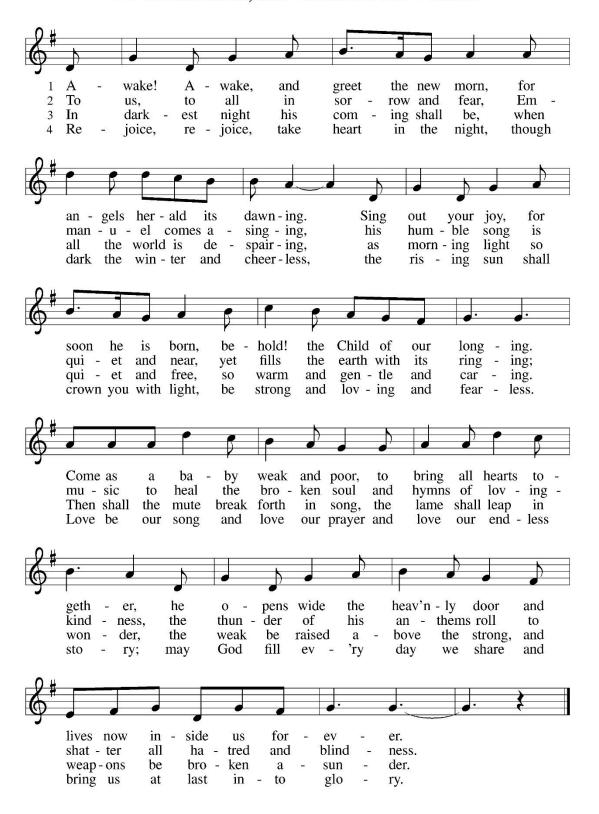
Received grant of \$375 from Lower Susquehanna Synod

Thank you for remembering our consecrated commitment we made in 2024; just as God is faithful to His promises to us, we are faithful to our promises to Him.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kathy Swords, Treasurer at mtzionyorktreasurer@gmail.com.

or call at 717-503-0527 (cell)

# Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



# Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish
- Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.

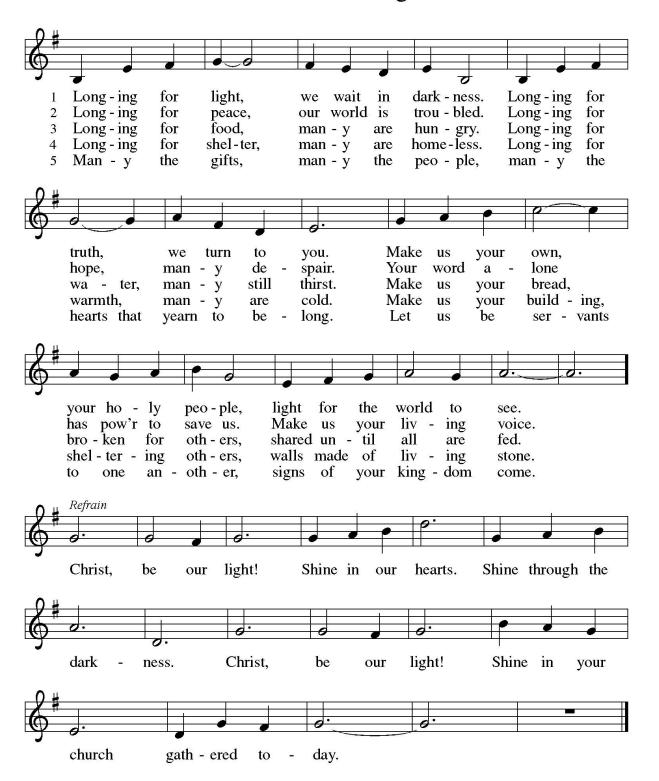
dark - ness.

- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.

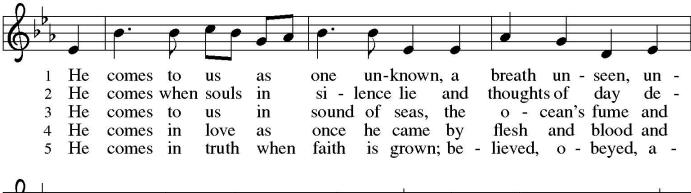


shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, He God ful - fills the prom - ise. shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly He lead them home-ward. your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King Lift of glo - ry. com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights He be shin - ing!

# Christ, Be Our Light



# He Comes to Us as One Unknown





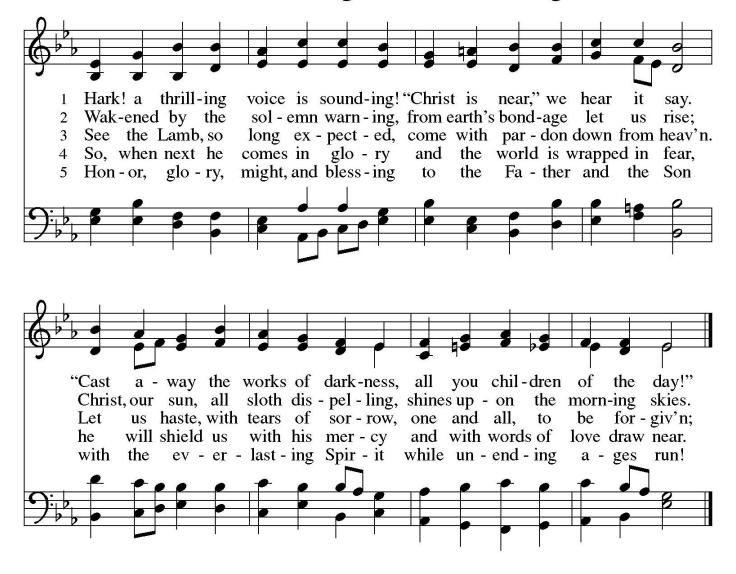
heard; as though with - in a heart of stone, or in - ward eye, part; half - seen the up - on foam; yet small and still up - on breeze, a the birth: to bear with - in our mor - tal frame a dored; the Christ in scrip - tures shown, as all the

shriv-eled seed in fall - ing star a wind that stirs the life, a death, a yet un - seen, but



pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be-ing stirred. dark-ness sown, a cross the sky of night with-in the heart, of night with-in the heart. tops of trees, a voice to home, a voice to call us home. call us earth, for say - ing name, for ev - 'ry child of ev - 'ry child of earth. Lord, our Say - ior and our Lord. un-known, our Sav-ior and our

# Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



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#### MOUNT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Debbie Mahady
Sexton: Rod Robles
Administrative Assistant: Kathy Gable
Treasurer: Kathy Swords
Financial Secretary: Brian Hinderer
Minister of Music, Emeritus: Sue Hoffheins

#### **OUR MISSION**

To spread the Gospel in accordance with God's plan by ministering to the spiritual and human needs of all people through our gifts, talents, and our love in Jesus Christ.

### **COME TO THE BANQUET**

On a weekly basis, Mount Zion Lutheran Church celebrates Holy Communion. God invites all who believe in the Real Presence in, with, and under the bread and wine to come to the banquet table of grace. Through the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, God calls us to be a part of His gracious love.

Therefore, Mount Zion Lutheran Church will not be similar to the world. We will not conform to a life that separates, nor that categorizes and justifies acts of elitism and lifestyles built on anxiety. We are one body, as we come together knowing that God reconciles all sinners. God calls us all to repent and ask for forgiveness – to be loved for who we are, people of God empowered to share His love to the entire world. We at Mount Zion will always extend an invitation to all to join us at the banquet table of grace.

If you would rather have a blessing instead of communion, place your hand over your heart, and the pastor will bless you.

If you have a spiritual or pastoral need, please contact Pastor Debbie at (717) 503-2729 or <a href="mtzionyorkpastordm@gmail.com">mtzionyorkpastordm@gmail.com</a> . She will get back to you ASAP. Or stop in the office if she is in.